

**Comment (Case 3700) – Support for designating *Diplodocus carnegii* Hatcher, 1901 as the type species of *Diplodocus* Marsh, 1878 (Dinosauria, Sauropoda)**  
(see BZN 73(1): 17–24 [Case]; BZN 73(2–4): 127, 129–131, 132–133, 134–135)

Spencer G. Lucas

*New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104, U.S.A.*  
(e-mail: spencer.lucas@state.nm.us)

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:78B808CC-E997-459E-9283-9DA7B60B339C>

---

1. I strongly support the application of Tschopp & Mateus (2016) to replace *Diplodocus longus* Marsh, 1878, the type species of the sauropod dinosaur *Diplodocus*, with *D. carnegii* Hatcher, 1901. As has been well demonstrated by Tschopp & Mateus, the holotype of *D. longus* is an undiagnostic portion of the tail skeleton, rendering *D. longus* a nomen dubium (nomen vanum). In contrast, the holotype of *D. carnegii* is one of the most complete fossil specimens of *Diplodocus* collected, and it includes diagnostic skeletal material. Furthermore, replicas (casts) of a composite skeleton of *D. carnegii* are on display at museums worldwide, and have come to represent the concept of *Diplodocus* in the technical and popular scientific literature.

2. *Diplodocus* is the genus name of an iconic Late Jurassic sauropod dinosaur, and, as such, it has been used in thousands of scientific and popular science publications. The fact that the type species of the genus is a nomen dubium thus threatens the continued use of *Diplodocus* as a dinosaur generic name, and may even necessitate proposal of a replacement name for the genus. Therefore, it serves both the universality and the stability of zoological nomenclature to redesignate the type species of *Diplodocus* as a species based on diagnostic type material, as proposed by Tschopp & Mateus (2016) in their application. I urge the Commission to accept their application by designating *D. carnegii* Hatcher, 1901 the type species of *Diplodocus* Marsh, 1878.

## Reference

- Tschopp, E. & Mateus, O. 2015. Case 3700. *Diplodocus* Marsh, 1878 (Dinosauria, Sauropoda): proposed designation of *D. carnegii* Hatcher, 1901 as the type species. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, 73(1): 17–24.